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**THIRD**  
**REPORT**  
*of*  
**THE WAR VICTIMS'**  
**RELIEF COMMITTEE**  
*of*  
*The Society of Friends*

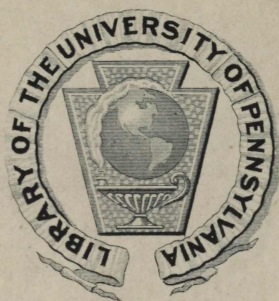


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October, 1915, to September, 1916

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**GIFT OF**  
Society



Friends, Society of - War victims' relief committee

**THIRD REPORT**  
OF THE  
**WAR VICTIMS' RELIEF COMMITTEE**  
OF THE  
**SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

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OCTOBER, 1915, to SEPTEMBER, 1916

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# THIRD REPORT

WAR VICTIMS' RELIEF COMMITTEE

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

OCTOBER 1914 TO SEPTEMBER 1915

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF AGENTS FOR THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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OF  
IN ENGLAND  
LONDON



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**THIRD REPORT**  
OF THE  
**WAR VICTIMS' RELIEF COMMITTEE**  
OF THE  
**SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.**

**OCTOBER 1st, 1915, to SEPTEMBER 30th, 1916.**

**Office:** Ethelburga House, 91, Bishopsgate, London, E.C. 2.

(Two rooms kindly lent by Messrs. CORBETT.)

*Telephone:* London Wall 7238.

*Telegraphic Address:* "Warvicrel, Led, London."  
(for Inland Telegrams only).

**Warehouse:** 22, New Street Square (entrance in Middle New Street), London, E.C. 4. *Telephone:* Holborn 3014.  
Parcels to be addressed to Ethel M. Ashby.

**Chairman of General Committee:**

HAROLD J. MORLAND, Khoja, Harewood Road,  
South Croydon.

**Chairman of Executive Committee:**

WILLIAM A. ALBRIGHT, 29, Frederick Road, Edgbaston,  
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ISAAC SHARP, Devonshire House, 136, Bishopsgate,  
London, E.C. 2.

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A. RUTH FRY, Ethelburga House, 91, Bishopsgate,  
London, E.C. 2.

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*Selection of Men:* (pro tem.) A. CLAUDE ROWNTREE, Ethelburga House, 91, Bishopsgate, E.C. 2.

*Selection of Women:* CONSTANCE PIM, Ethelburga House, 91, Bishopsgate, E.C. 2.

*Warehouse:* ETHEL M. ASHBY, 22, New Street Square, E.C. 4.

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### General Committee :

M. CATHARINE ALBRIGHT.	<i>w</i> RICHENDA GILLETT, M.D.
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<i>e</i> HUGH T. CROSFIELD	<i>m</i> Fred Rowntree
<i>e</i> JAMES B. CROSFIELD	EVELYN STURGE
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<i>x</i> A. Ruth Fry	<i>wh</i> HELEN WEBB, M.B.
CHARLES E. GILLETT	THE RIGHT HON. JOHN
LUCY B. GILLETT	W. WILSON, M.P.

### Associate of Men's Selection Sub-Committee

J. ROSSLYN EARP.

### Associate of Women's Selection Sub-Committee :

HILDA CASHMORE.

### Associate of Equipment Sub-Committee :

ALFRED LITTLEBOY.

Marked *m* are also on Selection of Men Sub-Committee.

"	<i>w</i>	"	"	Women	"
"	<i>e</i>	"	Equipment		"
"	<i>wh</i>	"	Warehouse		"
"	<i>x</i>	ex-officio on all Sub-Committees.			

Members of the Executive Committee are printed in italics.



**Workers in the London Office :**

ETHEL DUNN (part time).	A. CLAUDE ROWNTREE.
FREDERICK W. EVENS (part time).	S. THORNHILL TRACY.
SILVANUS JENNINGS.	ARTHUR L. TRAPNELL.
CLARICE M. LIGHTOWLER.	RAYMOND WHITWELL (part time).
CONSTANCE PIM.	ELIZABETH M. WILDE.

**Workers who have helped in the Office but have now left :**

ELLEN L. BROWN.	MARY L. STANTON.
-----------------	------------------

**Warehouse :***Secretary :* ETHEL M. ASHBY.*Manager :* ALFRED H. LITTLEBOY.*Warehouseman :* WILLIAM E. HOLLIS.**Daily Workers :**

HUGH HARRIS.	JOHN A. METCALFE.
--------------	-------------------

**Weekly Workers :**

AUGUSTA L. ASHBY.	ANNIE TOLSON.
E. EVELYN ASHBY.	EDITH WALLIS.
KATHERINE U. BAKER.	MARCUS WARNER.
MARGARET D. NUTTER.	

**Workers on Irregular Days :**

MARGARET C. CROSFIELD.	GERALD LITTLEBOY.
FLORENCE HEATH.	JAMES SMITH.

## FRANCE.

**Executive Committee and General Committee.***Heads of Departments:*

Agriculture	.	.	.	.	EDWARD G. WEST.
Building	.	.	.	.	HAROLD F. TREW.
Maintenance	.	.	.	.	ISABEL M. DODDS.
Medical	.	.	.	.	DR. HILDA CLARK.
Relief	.	.	.	.	S. MARGERY FRY.
Transport	.	.	.	.	H. WRIGHT BAKER.

*President:* T. EDMUND HARVEY.

*Treasurer and Paris Representative:*

RALPH ELIOTT (on sick leave), HAROLD BINKS (acting).

*Secretary:* WILFRID SHEWELL.

The above form the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

*Co-opted:* B. I. MACALPINE, GERTRUDE PIM, EDITH M. PYE.

**General Committee:**

The above, with the following:

LAURENCE M. ANGUS.

G. DOUGLAS ASHBY.

SOPHIA M. FRY.

JOHN L. NICKALLS.

GEORGE H. PATEMAN.

W. L. H. PECKOVER.

CYRIL WALMESLEY.

FRANK WATTS.



## Workers in France at end of January, 1917.

### BAR-LE-DUC.

ALEXANDER, RACHEL F.  
DAY, SUZANNE R.  
FRY, SOPHIA M.  
POWICKE, GERTRUDE M.

### BETTANCOURT.

ASHBY, G. DOUGLAS.  
DUNN, LILY.  
HARRIS, E.  
HENWOOD, ALBERT E.  
HUGHES, HELEN N.  
KENNEDY, RUTH.  
PIM, GERTRUDE.  
ROBINSON, WILLIAM A.

### CHÂLONS-SUR-MARNE.

BARNETT, CHARIS U.  
BEARD, MARY S.  
BUSSELL, M. E.  
CALLWELL, MAUDE.  
CHAMBERS, BLANCHE E.  
FERGUSON, ISABEL.  
GIBBINS, MARJORIE E.  
GRIPPER, ELFRIDA M.  
MCCOLL, MARIE E.  
PYE, EDITH M.  
RACKSTRAW, MARJORIE.  
RENTON, SARA.  
STEEL, FRED (chauffeur).

### DÔLE-DU-JURA.

BARKAS, WILFRID W.  
BELL, NORMAN H.  
BROOKS, NORMAN E.

BURTT, E. GRAHAM.  
CHAPMAN, G. AUSTIN.  
CLEMENTS, RICHARD.  
CROSS, KENNETH.  
DAVIES, STANLEY W.  
FRANKLIN, GEOFFREY E.  
GOSS, RALPH.  
GOUGH, BENJAMIN.  
HAIGH, CHARLES R.  
HARDERN, GEOFFREY.  
HILL, WILLIAM E.  
MORETON, FRANK E.  
PATEMAN, GEORGE H.  
SHARPE, FREDERICK J.  
THEOBALD, RONALD F.  
WATTS, FRANK.  
WEIR, WILLIAM.  
WESTON, HENRY P.  
WOODALL, J. EDWARD.  
WRAY, MAXWELL H.

### ÉTREPY.

BOWRY, JOHN T.  
CHESTERMAN, ARNOLD.  
HENDERSON, DAVID.  
OLDHAM, ERNEST W.  
PECKOVER, W. LIONEL.  
ROBINSON, HALDANE M.

### PARIS.

BINKS, HAROLD.  
COLEBROOK, BLANCHE (tem.).  
CROMPTON, GERTRUDE.  
RHYS, MEGANWY.  
SHEWELL, WILFRID.  
WHITE, L. DORICE.  
WOOD, H. STEER.

## SAMOËNS.

BRIGGS, MARGERY H.  
 CAWOOD, BESSIE M.  
 CLEMESHA, MARGARET.  
 FOX, DR. IRIS.  
 LAURISTON, ALEXANDER.  
 MACPHAIL, DR. K. S.  
 MORLAND, MOLLY E.  
 POLLARD, OLIVE H.  
 PONTEFRAC, JENNIE S. G.  
 ROSE, JEANIE A.  
 RHYS, OLWEN.  
 SCANLAN, HILDA.  
 WILSON, FRANCESCA M.  
 WRIGHT, DOROTHY M.

## SERMAIZE.

ADENEY, MAGGIE.  
 ANGUS, LAURENCE M.  
 BAKER, H. WRIGHT.  
 BROWN, OLIVER P.  
 BULLEY, MARGARET H.  
 CLARK, DR. HILDA.  
 COOPE, ROBERT.  
 DEARDEN, HENRY.  
 DODDS, ISABEL M.  
 FRYER, C. FRANCIS.  
 LAW, LILIAN M.  
 MACLACHLAN, MARGARET, M.B.  
 McDERMID, H. RAYMOND.  
 MUIRHEAD, CATHERINE.  
 NICKALLS, JOHN L.  
 PUMPHREY, AUBYN H.  
 PYE-SMITH, DESMOND E.  
 RILEY, WILLIAM.  
 TREW, HAROLD F.

WALMESLEY, CYRIL.  
 WALTON, ARTHUR.  
 WEST, EDWARD GUNDRY.

## SERMAIZE HOSPITAL.

BROWN, RALPH VIPONT.  
 EVANS, MARGARET.  
 MATHESON, WILLIAM.  
 UBSDELL, E. H.  
 WATTS, RENSHAW.

Attached to SERMAIZE, but  
 doing agricultural work in  
 the District.

ADDISON, EDWARD.  
 ALLEN, DOUGLAS K. P.  
 CROSSLEY, FRED.

## TROYES.

CONNAH, SARAH H.  
 DUNBAR, ETHEL G.  
 MACALPINE, BERNARD I.  
 MAUGER, PAUL E. V.

On Furlough or Sick Leave.

BIRRELL, FRANCIS L.  
 DEBENHAM, ELIZABETH.  
 ELIOTT, RALPH.  
 FRIEND, BRENDA.  
 FRY, S. MARGERY.  
 GEDDES, ARTHUR F.  
 HUTCHINSON, MAURICE.  
 HUTCHINSON, SARAH.  
 MELLAND, RUTH.  
 MELLOR, WILLIAM.  
 NEILD, MABEL.  
 SHIPWAY, ENID P.  
 WRIGHT, CHARLES B.



## HOLLAND.

### Field Committee:

*Chairman:* HAROLD T. ELLIS.

*Organiser:* GRACE C. VULLIAMY.

*Treasurer:* E. MAURICE WOOD.

J. FREDERICK BRAITHWAITE.  
I. CHRISTINA DAVIES.  
AGNES EVANS.  
BURLEIGH W. FINCKEN.  
LILIAN GUNTER.

J. MILDRED NICHOLL.  
NORMAN I. PARLEY.  
HOWARD D. ROWNTREE.  
GILBERT S. YEOMAN.

### Workers in Holland at the end of January, 1917:

#### AMERSFOORT.

ATTENBOROUGH, EDITH.  
BARKER, MABEL.  
BRAITHWAITE, J. FREDERICK.  
CASH, MABEL.  
GUNTER, LILIAN.  
PARLEY, AGNES.  
PRICE, REGINALD C.

#### EDE.

ANGUS, KENNETH.  
CLAYTON, CUTHBERT.  
LUNNON, ROBERT G.  
MACLACHLAN, LEWIS.  
YEOMAN, GILBERT S.

#### FLUSHING.

EVANS, AGNES.

#### THE HAGUE.

BARBER, DORIS.  
ELLIS, HAROLD T.  
HENDERSON, H. W. C.

PARLEY, NORMAN I.  
VULLIAMY, GRACE C.  
(Organiser).  
WOOD, E. MAURICE.

#### NUNSPEET.

BENNETT, LESLIE H.  
EAMES, FELIX.  
FINCKEN, BURLEIGH W.  
LEVIN, HELEN.  
NICHOLL, J. MILDRED.  
OYSTON, GEORGE D.

#### UDEN.

DAVIES, I. CHRISTINA.  
FOX, ALIZON.  
GODDARD, SCOTT.  
POWELL, ALFRED H.  
ROWNTREE, HOWARD D.  
RUTTER, AGNES.  
WALLIS, ARTHUR T.  
WRIGHT, PHYLLIS M.

## RUSSIA.

## Workers in Russia at end of January, 1917 :

## ANDRIEFKA.

BARROW, FLORENCE M.  
CATCHPOOL, E. ST. JOHN.  
COLLES, CHARLES.  
PEARSON, DR. GEORGE H.  
WILLIAMS, E. THEODORA.

## BOGDANOFKA.

PATTISON, MARY B.  
WELLS, ANNIE R.

## BUZULUK.

ANDERSON, SELINA K.  
BALL, PHYLLIS M.  
BALL, RICHARD R.  
BOUGHTON LEIGH, EDITH V.  
COX, ETHEL.  
HEALD, THOMAS DANN.  
KEDDIE, FRANK.  
RICKMAN, DR. JOHN.  
RIGG, THEODORE.  
TATLOCK, ROBERT R.

(Secretary).

(The list of workers at the headquarters at Buzuluk includes those who have recently gone out or those of whose present location we are uncertain.)

A Field Committee meets monthly.

## Workers transferred to the Serbian Relief Fund:

## IN CORSICA.

GALLIMORE, ERNEST S.  
GIBBINS, FRANCIS.  
GIBBINS, JOHN.  
HARVEY, JOHN.  
INNES, G. A.  
LEWIS, CICELY.  
ROBINSON, CHARLES H.  
ROBINSON, MARGARET S.  
ROWNTREE, OLIVE H.  
SMALLWOOD, PHILIP.

## IN CORFU.

DELL, ANTHONY W.

## LUBIMOFKA.

BAKER, HINMAN J.  
BARBER, MARGARET.  
BUTT, ELLEN.  
FOX, ELSIE TYLOR  
(Head of Nursing Dept.).  
FOX, DR. J. TYLOR  
(Head of Medical Dept.).  
GRAVESON, HANNAH H.  
WHITE, DOROTHY E.

## MOGOTOVO.

FOX, DORA E.  
GRAVESON, BERTHA.  
LEWIS, C. GORDON.  
LINDSAY, ELEANOR T.  
LITTLE, WILFRID R.  
(Treasurer).  
MANNING, DR. HERBERT C.  
MORGAN, ELIZABETH A.  
WEBSTER, MARGARET A.  
WELCH, GREGORY.

## IN SALONIKA.

BOSANQUET, R. C.  
WARD, H. ARNOLD.

## IN MARSEILLES.

COVENTRY, ROY.

## IN ENGLAND.

BALLS, EDWARD K.  
BELLOW, JOHN E.  
WOODHOUSE, F. E.  
WILSON, MAURICE M.

## Representative with the Lord Mayor's Fund in Armenia :

BACKHOUSE, ALFRED E.

## Representatives in Switzerland :

WOODS, JOSEPH A. and MADGE.

### List of Returned Workers and of Visitors for short periods since the last Report was issued :

ALBRIGHT, M. CATHARINE.  
ALBRIGHT, WILLIAM A.  
ALLAN, MABEL.  
ALLEN, ALFRED.  
ARUNDEL, WINIFRED.  
ASHURST, GWYNETH M.  
ATKEY, MARGARET.  
BAYFIELD, MARIE L.  
BELL, NURSE.  
BRISON, IRENE.  
BROWN, EILEEN BARRATT.  
BURTT, JOSEPH.  
CADBURY, WILLIAM A.  
CLARK, ALICE.  
COURTNEY, KATHLEEN.  
COX, KATHERINE L.  
CROWDY, ROSAMOND.  
CUDWORTH, MARY.  
DINELEY, EMILY M.  
DOLLING, ULRICA R.  
DONCASTER, NORA.  
ELIOTT, AMY.  
ELIOTT, ARNOLD.  
ELLIOTT, CHARLOTTE.  
ELLIOTT, MARIA.  
ELSEY, NURSE.  
FITZPATRICK, ROBERT R.  
FRY, A. RUTH.  
FRYER, ALFRED HY.  
FOX, ANNA.  
FOX, HILDA A.

GILPIN, E. M.  
GREEN, GERTRUDE L.  
HADFIELD, ELIZABETH.  
HARVEY, T. EDMUND.  
HAUGHTON, W. THEODORE.  
HEWITT, ALBERT T. M.  
HOWARD, ELIZABETH FOX.  
JACKSON, CLARE A.  
JACKSON, STANLEY H.  
KENDALL, Prof. ELIZABETH.  
KERR, WINIFRED, M.B.,  
Ch.B.  
KING, R. ESTELLE.  
LAMB, GILBERT C.  
LEPETIT, JEANNE.  
LINGFORD, HERBERT M.  
LIVINGSTONE, AMINA F.  
MAYNARD, J. DOUGLAS.  
MARSH, JESSIE.  
MARTEN, SEPTIMUS.  
MELLANBY, T. GRAHAM.  
MERZ, TERESA.  
METFORD, MATILDA.  
MILLIGAN, JOHN L.  
MITCHELL, MAY B.  
MORGAN, ETHEL A.  
MURRAY, DR. MARY.  
NEAVE, J. NORTON.  
NESS, MARGARET B.  
O'BRIEN, MURIEL H.  
PATTERSON, ALEXANDER B.

PETRIE, JAMES A.  
 PRIESTMAN, JOAN.  
 PROCTOR, DR. RUTH.  
 REES, MARY T.  
 ROBERTS, DR. ADELINE.  
 ROBERTS, VERE.  
 ROBINSON, JOSEPH, M.D.  
 ROGERS, CLARA C.  
 ROTHNEY, CONSTANCE.  
 ROTT, MDLLE.  
 ROWNTREE, FRED.  
 ROWNTREE, JOAN HURNDALL.  
 ROWNTREE, KATHLEEN.  
 RUDDOCK, MABEL.  
 RUTTER, DOROTHY.  
 SEWARD, DOROTHY.  
 SIDGWICK, MARGARET.  
 SIDGWICK, ROSE.

SIMPSON, AGNES A.  
 SKIPWORTH, MARGARET G.  
 SMITH, CHRISTINA.  
 STEPHENS, JOHN S.  
 STURGE, EVELYN.  
 TARVER, MARY L.  
 THOMPSON, REBECCA.  
 WATTS, ARTHUR.  
 WEDDERBURN, BETTY.  
 WHARTON, MARGARET.  
 WHITING, DOROTHY.  
 WHITING, MILDRED.  
 WILKINSON, MRS.  
 WILLIAMS, KATE.  
 WILSON, ALICE V. M.  
 WILSON, ELSIE D.  
 WILSON, KATHLEEN.



# THIRD REPORT

OF THE

## WAR VICTIMS' RELIEF COMMITTEE

OF THE

### SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.\*

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**I**N presenting this, our third annual report, we look back over a period of rather more than a year. Within this time our work has seen quite unexpected developments, and it has been brought home to us more and more that we must adapt ourselves to the course of events rather than endeavour to follow any definite preconceived programme.

#### THE YEAR'S DEVELOPMENTS:

##### (1) *Serbia.*

At the time of our last report arrangements were being made, in conjunction with the Serbian Relief Committee, to send help to the refugees from the Balkan States. This was successfully carried through, and our workers were able to render important services. The work among these people still continues,

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\* In consequence of delay in the publication of this Report, certain matters referring to a later date in the year 1916 than the month of September have been inserted under the various fields.

but has been adapted to meet the altered circumstances. The refugees, now in Corsica, are being assisted to occupy their leisure with useful handicrafts, much on the same lines as the Belgian refugees in Holland.

(2) *Russia.*

The other important development has been the opening out of the work in Russia. A limitless field for effort exists here, where millions of refugees are living under terrible conditions. We have now thirty-three workers in the Province of Samara, and the manner in which they are endeavouring to fight the misery and disease in a district of seven hundred square miles, where the refugees number one in four of the population, is described elsewhere.

PROGRESS IN FRANCE AND HOLLAND.

In France the work has continued on the lines previously indicated, the principal development being the establishment of a camp at Dôle, in the Jura, where it is proposed to build five hundred moveable huts, in readiness to be transported into the districts now in the war zone as soon as this becomes possible. A hundred are being undertaken in the first place.

In Holland the work in the camps has been maintained; and at Amersfoort the few houses given by us, as mentioned in our last report, for the wives of interned Belgian soldiers, are now part of a village accommodating about 1,000 persons. Work is being carried on among the women and children in the village on similar lines to that in the camps. Eighteen of our houses have been given towards the establishment of a similar village at Gaasterland.

## AT HOME.

The organisation in London remains much as before, with a slight increase in the staff necessitated by the increased work abroad. Two more rooms have been leased at Ethelburga House, now making six in all. At the warehouse the total of articles received and dispatched has now risen to 371,836; and we have again to express our thanks to the many willing workers whose help from time to time has made it possible to deal with this large quantity, as well as to the tireless friends all over the world whose industry enables us to send this constant stream of beautiful clothes to the needy war victims.

## FRANCE.

### GENERAL.

Since the issue of our last yearly report, the work of the Expedition in France has continued and developed.

With the prolongation of the war new and serious needs appear, so that although the programme then laid down is now, except so far as the medical work is concerned, practically completed, as will be seen in the detailed reports of our various branches, we realise clearly that the calls upon our help will be at least as great in the future as in the past, though they will come from different places and people.

For the past year, we may say that the medical institutions at Châlons sur Marne and at Samoëns, in the Haute Savoie, the building camp at Dôle, in the Jura, and the relief distributions in the Meurthe et Moselle and at Troyes form geographically the outposts of our

work. The larger part of it has been done in the region lying between and around Bar-le-Duc and Vitry le François, a triangular-shaped piece of country whose sides measure about twenty, twenty-five, and thirty miles respectively.

In this district, and particularly in its ruined parts, a great change is visible since we came to it. Everywhere temporary houses have been put up for the burnt-out population. In twenty-six communes these houses have all, or many of them, been built by the Expedition; throughout the district each house has received its share of furniture, provided by the Department of the Marne, or the French Société of the Bon Gîte, or ourselves, and distributed through our hands. Seeds and tools have also been given; and where there was nothing but ruins, with the few inhabitants living in their cellars, the little new houses and their gardens now give to each place the air of a colonial settlement in the midst of Pompeii.

In contrast to this amelioration of the village homes is the growing desolation of the fields, where every season weeds, encouraged by the scarcity of labour, gain ground from which it will take years to dislodge them; whilst the unfortunate refugees from districts where, as yet, no reconstruction can be begun—districts in German hands, or on the battle line—live on in their wretched rooms without the impetus to hope of those who are building up their homes again.

#### THE LOT OF THE REFUGEES.

The conclusions drawn from our work here are confirmed by enquiries made in other districts. It emerges clearly that the lot of the refugees away from their homes is *now* far worse than that of the people who are begin-



ning life again, in however poor a way, in their own villages. For the refugee, the problems of finding work and lodging are both extremely hard of solution. An able-bodied man is sure of employment; for the women in country districts there is farm work for part of the year, and sometimes washing, mending, or cooking to be done for passing troops; in the towns, military tailoring and washing, with munition-making in some places, afford occupation for considerable numbers. But a great deal of this work is intermittent and precarious; most of it is impossible for ailing or elderly women, or mothers of small children, who cannot be out all day. The task of making ends meet, with constantly rising prices, on the Government allowance is an almost hopeless one; and there is no doubt that the families who cannot supplement their allowance by earnings, suffer seriously from insufficient nourishment. The danger is aggravated by their lamentable condition as to housing. The restriction imposed upon enforcing the payment of rent during the war makes some landlords very chary of letting rooms; others charge exorbitant prices for miserable lodgings, and the refugees are crowded into tumbledown hovels or slum tenements in a way which is causing very serious injury to their health, and threatens grave trouble in the years to come.

#### FUTURE LINES OF WORK.

It is this shifting of the points where the war misery presses hardest which indicates the future lines of our work. On the one hand, we hope to make some contribution towards helping the agricultural need in a limited area by a stronger equipment of workers and machinery, acting from a farm centre, and by the sale, at

low prices, of seeds and potatoes. On the other hand, we desire, as far as funds permit, to work amongst the refugee population of some of the most crowded towns, concentrating upon schemes for furnishing employment, and, at least to some extent, of housing. This last will probably, in future, take the form of putting up moveable houses at two or three centres, and thus putting to immediate use some of the material which we are preparing for the time when new districts are opened. Other houses will be made and kept ready in stock, to meet an urgent call. It is almost impossible, owing to the difficulty of obtaining permits for doctors and nurses, even where they themselves are available, to forecast future medical work beyond the bare maintenance of what we have already undertaken; but of all the needs of the War Victims in France, there is none to compare in urgency with that of coping with the rapidly increasing ill-health, and particularly of tuberculosis, amongst them. We are eager to help, even in the smallest degree, towards fighting this danger to the population of France.

#### THANKS TO OUR HELPERS.

The extent of our future work must, of course, depend largely upon the supply of funds and workers. During the past year the number of our workers in the field has averaged about ninety, almost equally divided between men and women. The difficulty of obtaining permits has pressed very heavily on all departments, but particularly on the medical work. Though we point out this practical hindrance, we are far from forgetful of the great debt we owe to the military authorities of the district for the wide facilities they allow to us. For much help in the matter of travel, and kindness to

workers travelling, we are most grateful to the French Red Cross Society in London, who have lately strengthened the tie between their organisation and our own by the welcome visit of their two representatives, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Hutcheson Poë and Colonel Mayo-Robson.

We have also to report, with pleasure, our continued close and happy co-operation with many French Societies, amongst which we must mention more especially *Le Bon Gîte*, *l'Œuvre de Guerre des Colonies de Vacances*, and *le Comité de Secours National de la Chaussée du Maine*. We must record our gratitude, also, for the constant generosity of the American Relief Clearing House, and the help of the *Comité Franco-Américain pour la Protection des Enfants de la Frontière*, and of the *Comité du Patronage de l'Enfance et de l'Adolescence*.

To our own more immediate supporters, we offer again our warmest thanks. To Madame la Comtesse de Morillot for the loan of her château at Bettancourt; to Mr. H. E. Skepper for the use of his warehouse in Paris, and for much friendly hospitality to our workers; to our helpers at home, who have sent us clothes and sheets (often rendered more personal as gifts by messages to the recipients); to the "*Amis en Australie*," whose supplies of garments are so welcomed both for their quality, their quantity, and their selection; to Friends in America, who have sent us considerable contributions of money and other presents, as well as to givers in other and distant lands. Further, we must express our cordial gratitude to the French Civil Authorities, whose dealings with us have remained most liberal and kindly in all branches of the work. In particular, this year we

acknowledge with great gratitude the renting of a house for our nurses at Châlons by the department. The officials of the Prefecture under which we act in this branch of our work have continued to show us the consideration and favour we have always experienced at their hands, and we realise how entirely our work in France has depended on their generous recognition of our desire to help their compatriots in their great need.

#### AGRICULTURE.

The Agricultural work this year has consisted mainly in the loan of our machines, in the distribution of seeds, chickens, and rabbits, and work in harvesting and threshing. For the motor threshing we provide the machines, with one of our men to drive the engine, and generally one other to feed in the sheaves. For harvest, we sent what men we could to work in the fields, but at this most busy time our personnel was particularly restricted.

During the year forty-six machines have been distributed for mowing and harvesting, and ten threshers and five "tripoteuses" (machines for one or two horses, worked on the principle of a tread-mill). About three hundred chickens and fifty rabbits have been given away, but great difficulty has been experienced in rearing.

The distribution of seeds for both gardens and farms has continued this year, as last, to the value of Frs. 17,000. This side of the work, which is in some ways the most satisfactory of all our agricultural assistance, has been extremely successful this year, and has been carried out over a much larger area than previously.



The recipients are enthusiastic in their praise of the quality of the seeds received.

In a number of cases we have been able to repair the machines in villages where the blacksmiths have been mobilised.

The great deterioration of the land has already been referred to; more and more goes out of cultivation each year, and weeds grow up everywhere, spoiling the quality of the neighbouring crops in the still cultivated fields. The Committee has, therefore, decided to rent some farm buildings in the district, which will serve as a place for the storage and repair of machines, and which may also become an organising point for a larger staff of agricultural workers, who will devote themselves all the year round to the various seasonal activities of the land. We also hope to have the use of one or two motor ploughs for ploughing in the large fields, while small groups of workers may be started in various districts for ploughing in the smaller fields. We may make use of caravans to serve as moveable homes for the workers thus engaged. We also wish, if possible, to organise to some extent the sale at low prices of seed and other agricultural necessities, which are at present often beyond the reach of the cultivators owing to high prices and the difficulties of transport.

#### BUILDING.

The provision of temporary shelters for those whose homes have been destroyed by bombardment or fire during the war has now been completed in the villages of the Marne and Meuse to which we have had access. In this we have worked in conjunction with the depart-

mental authorities, who have also received help from the military engineers and French contractors. The Expedition alone has built four hundred and thirty houses in all, of which sixty-two are in brick. About 1,530 persons have been housed. The materials have been paid for by the departments; most of the workmanship being the gift of our Society. The value of the materials only is deducted by the departmental authorities from the amount of indemnity which may be due to the householders.

At Sermaize and Pargny groups of brick cottages have been built to house families of the labouring class who were only tenants before the war.

Near Fontette, in the Aube, at the request of Monsieur Paul Passy, we have helped in the conversion of a farmhouse to serve as an orphanage for about twenty war orphans. Bedrooms were made in the roof, a sanitary block added, and the water supply and drainage extended.

At Dôle, in the Jura, a construction camp for making portable houses in sections has been begun. These are intended for erection in destroyed villages not yet accessible, and it is hoped to use them meanwhile to house refugees living under bad conditions in Troyes, Châlons, Paris, and elsewhere. The difficulties of obtaining timber have been considerable, but arrangements have now been made with the military engineers for these supplies. At present we are engaged on the construction of a hundred houses for the department of the Ardennes. Twenty men are now working at the Dôle camp, but it is hoped to double the number if material and workers are available.

## MEDICAL.

As the second year of our medical work draws to a close, we are faced with the fact that the need for it increases. The hospitals which admit civilians in the area which we serve are crowded to nearly double their ordinary capacity. Vitry has often to refuse cases; and the Hôtel Dieu, at Châlons, is in a state of serious overcrowding, and begs us to take for convalescence cases who are still in need of much attention. The civil hospital at Reims is evacuated. Consequently such institutional accommodation as we have is taxed to its utmost.

The steady deterioration of health owing to privation, overcrowding, and bad feeding, makes the proportion of *émigrés* needing hospital care much higher this winter than last.

## MATERNITY HOSPITAL FOR REFUGEES AT CHÂLONS.

The work for the mothers, which in the summer of 1915 diminished, has steadily increased again all this year.

The Hospital has become a maternity centre for the Marne, the weekly consultations being well attended. The visiting and instruction in the homes is being developed as far as an incomplete staff will allow, and the readmissions of sick babies for care and dieting have steadily increased, the daily average number now being about thirteen.

The open-air shelter containing the hammocks for the babies (the latter made by our workers in Holland) has proved invaluable, and is the admiration of all French visitors, as well as a very great factor in the

care of the babies, and an object-lesson to the mothers in the value of fresh air.

Thanks to the continued gifts of clothing sent from England and America, we have been able to provide each *émigrée* mother with a layette, and, where absolutely necessary, a cradle and blanket have been added.

The crèche for the older children maintains its usefulness, and has been constantly full, though its need as a clearing-house for Reims children appears now to be over, as all the children whose parents will part with them have left the city.

The total number of cases cared for at the Maternité is now 1,429.

#### SERMAIZE HOSPITAL.

This is used chiefly as a Convalescent Home for boys, and, when needed, as a Cottage Hospital for the district. During the year it has been enlarged by the addition of two wards, and so is able to take, in addition to the boys, a limited number of women, for whom there is at present no other provision. There is accommodation for twenty patients, and if we had sufficient staff this would always be taxed to its utmost.

We have had the great benefit of help and advice in one or two serious cases from Mr. Forsyth and the staff at Faux Miroir, for which we are most grateful. During the year October, 1915—October, 1916, one hundred and fourteen patients have been admitted.

The out-patient department is a very important feature of the work at Sermaize.



### BETTANCOURT CONVALESCENT HOME.

An extremely useful year's work has been done amongst the children, and the need for such an institution is increasingly evident; the effects of overcrowding and bad feeding tell more rapidly on children than on adults. At the end of the year Mrs. E. V. Lucas and her staff, to whose devoted work it owes its success, were obliged to return to England, and the expenses, which had been defrayed in so generous a manner by an anonymous donor, have now fallen on our Committee, who are receiving welcome help from Mrs. Morris Ashby and her sons.

The number of children admitted up to October, 1916, was two hundred and fifty. The usual length of stay in several months, but some children have been in residence over a year, as their home conditions would make relapse inevitable if they should return.

The improvement in the children's health at Sermaize and at Bettancourt has been very satisfactory in nearly all cases.

### DISTRICT WORK.

The doctor of the party stationed at Sermaize for the supervision of Sermaize Hospital and Bettancourt attends cases in the district who cannot get help from a French civil or military doctor.

### CONVALESCENT HOME AT SAMOENS, HAUTE SAVOIE.

During the winter 1915-16 nearly 100,000 persons returned to France through Switzerland from their homes in the invaded French departments, and passed

through Annemasse, where the need for "Rest Houses" was very acutely felt.

At the urgent request of the French Committees who were helping these unfortunate people, and aided by a grant from the Comité de Secours National, we took a Hotel at Samoëns, in the mountains near Annemasse, where from ninety to one hundred of these cases could be admitted. Just as this was arranged the convoys stopped, and it was, therefore, decided to utilise the Hotel as a Convalescent Home for refugees in Paris.

The Hotel was soon filled with women and children, specially selected from four hundred applicants in Paris as requiring careful medical supervision and likely to benefit from mountain air. Similar cases were also sent on to Samoëns from Bettancourt and from Bar-le-Duc and Troyes. In many cases several members of a family have been admitted, and we have had four babies with their mothers.

The Hotel at Samoëns is beautifully situated, at an altitude of 2,200 ft., in a charming valley which is in sunshine all day and perfectly protected from the wind. The houses are partly warmed and suitable for winter use.

On December 4th, 1916, convoys of *rapatriés* began to come again through Switzerland to Annemasse, whence they are distributed over France. They are expected to continue for some time, as 120,000 are to come at the rate of a thousand a day, and before long cases of ill-health among them will replace the Paris refugees under our care at Samoëns. We cannot touch more than the fringe of the suffering of the thousands that we see pass through Annemasse, the majority

of whom are hurrying to join their relations; but it is the very greatest satisfaction to be able to rescue some of the most needy and helpless cases, especially as they quickly recover health in the splendid air, and are likely to be restored to the ranks of the self-supporting.

About one-third of the running expenses of Samoëns come from French sources, the allocation paid by the State and a special grant per head from the Refugee Committees. The remainder is borne by the Society.

#### RELIEF.

The schemes for distribution of furniture among the *sinistrés*,\* or burnt-out inhabitants of the Marne and the Meuse, are now practically completed.

In the Marne, in all the destroyed areas of the arrondissement of Vitry le François, and in the districts of the arrondissements of Châlons and Epernay on the left bank of the Marne, furniture has been given to all families (with the exception of the few wealthy ones) who are inhabiting the small temporary houses put up since the invasion. A choice of furniture is made up to an approximate value based on the number of people in the family. The lists are made by the visitors of the Society; and, after the sanction of the authorities has been obtained, furniture is ordered and distributed by us. The cost has been borne mainly by the department, but four communes were furnished by the French Society of the Bon Gîte. In addition, at the joint expense of the department and the Society, every

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\* This word is used to distinguish those who have suffered loss or damage through the operations of the war, but have not been driven from their district, as compared with the *émigrés*, who have suffered this last also.

*sinistré* family which has not rebuilt has received a bed or a cupboard, according to choice, except in Sermaize, where the beds were given before the alternative was introduced.

In our district of the Meuse similar arrangements have been followed, except that the furniture has been sent by the Bon Gîte; a few items are still outstanding under this head.

These distributions have entailed an enormous amount of work upon our car department.

This work for the *sinistrés* who are back in their own villages having been completed, we systematically revisited all the *émigrés*, or refugees from a distance, in our immediate area. All of these have now received clothing from us, most of them having had two parcels. To the greater number of families we have also given sheets or blankets, and we are giving beds in places where aged or ill people are still without them.

We are at present organising sales of potatoes at a cheap rate for the *émigrés* in some villages where the poor crop, the presence of large bodies of troops, and the difficulties of transport make the supply of this staple article of food most precarious. "We live almost entirely on bread and potatoes," said one woman, "and now, whatever price we pay, we cannot get potatoes." The same complaint reaches us continually, and we feel that this piece of work, though it is extremely difficult to carry out, is of the greatest importance.

#### AT BAR-LE-DUC.

The great majority of the refugees at Bar-le-Duc still remain, and have come to look upon our settlement

there as an important factor in their lives. The work-room, which employs eighty women and girls, goes steadily on. Clothes have been given in the town and in thirty-one neighbouring villages; but perhaps the greatest satisfaction of all has been caused by the "Linen Chest" scheme. Most of the families of refugees have been invited to join this "Club"; they pay Fr.1.50 and provide a packing-case. They receive three or four sheets, four pillow-cases, six towels, and a blanket, and are encouraged to embroider their initials on the linen. An *émigré* carpenter transforms the cases into chests by the addition of hinges and clasps; and thus over 665 families have been provided with a small family linen chest, the beginning of new things.

Our workers in Bar-le-Duc were able to help the citizens of the town in the arrangements made to receive the refugees who poured down from the districts around Verdun in the beginning of 1916. Some of the arrangements then made have been kept on in more permanent form for the relatives of wounded soldiers who come to visit them in hospital.

Other activities which have proved very helpful at Bar-le-Duc are the sale to refugees under cost price of beds and bedding, the employment of about ninety women and girls, who come from eighteen villages as well as from the town, upon the fine white embroidery, which many of them practised at home and which it is difficult for them to dispose of in war time, and the employment of about forty other women in knitting, crochet, and plain sewing.



## AT TROYES.

Another group of workers is now settled at Troyes, where some five thousand refugees are living under very hard conditions. Large quantities of clothing were given away last winter. Now attention is being directed more especially to questions of health, housing, furnishing, and employment. The rent of three houses to be let out in rooms has been guaranteed by a member of the Expedition. Furniture is being sold to the *émigrés* at about three-quarters of its cost price, the payments being made in the form of monthly hire. The need of some such system was clearly shown in the case of a family of four persons, who had paid since the beginning of the war some Frs. 600 in rent for a tiny furnished attic. If they had been able to hire an empty room, and buy furniture by monthly instalments, they would, on this expenditure, by now have furniture enough to begin life again when they return home. As it is, they own nothing. In Troyes a number of sewing machines have been lent, or given, to enable refugees to earn; and embroidery work is also being given out with this end in view.

This latter industry we hope to develop in various centres. If we can find a sale in England or elsewhere for the white work and the coloured wool embroidery on linen which we are now starting, it will enable us to give the women what they most need—a chance of earning and occupation at once for hands and minds. One mother told us with delight that she had heard her daughters singing for the first time since the beginning of the war as they sat over this new work; and the moral benefits of the scheme were well summed up by one

small refugee of seven years old, who remarked sagely :  
 " Pour les émigrés, vous savez, c'est désolant, mais avec la broderie, on s'ennuiera moins."

#### MEURTHE-ET-MOSELLE.

The Meurthe-et Moselle party began their Autumn work in 1915 in a group of eight villages lying north of Lunéville. These villages, lying between five and ten kilomètres from the front, were terribly destroyed—many of the people having to live in the small shelters left behind their houses, shelters that were formerly bakeries, piggeries, &c. There was a great deal of poverty and misery, and a very generous gift of groceries was found most useful.

In December, 1915, the group was asked by the Prefect to make an inventory of all goods belonging to refugees in Reméréville, to help him in his scheme for the distribution of furniture. When this was done, the Prefect asked that the same thing should be done in a more detailed way at Gerbéviller, a town which has suffered very severely. This proved a long, difficult, but interesting piece of work, and it is a satisfaction to know that the Prefect has found the returns most useful.

After Christmas, distributions were made in five villages north-east of Nancy, some of which were frequently bombarded.

The villages still nearer the front having been evacuated, the work in the Meurthe et Moselle was discontinued in the spring of 1916.

## HOLLAND.

Our work in the three large Government camps of Ede, Nunspeet, and Uden (each numbering some three to four thousand Belgians), at Elisabethdorp, the village (now numbering nearly a thousand) for wives and children of soldiers interned not far from Amersfoort, and at Flushing still continues on the same lines as before. It has developed, however, in a good many directions as the need arose, this development being made possible by the kindness and sympathy of the Dutch authorities and their willingness to facilitate our work in every way.

The work at the fourth camp, at Gouda, which was in progress when our last report was issued, has for various reasons been discontinued. So also has the work of building moveable houses, now that 115 have been erected at our expense and 300 with funds supplied by Danish Committees, but built under our supervision. The workshop in which they were made at Gouda has been lent for the same purpose to Minister Poulet for a scheme in connection with the Belgian Repatriation Fund. Quite recently, however, a workshop and house have been constructed and erected at Groningen for the use of the interned men of the Royal Naval Division. After the war they are to be transferred to Belgium with the rest.

In reading the attached report it must be remembered that we work only as it were in a corner of each of these camps, the total number of Belgians employed by us being about six hundred. We have also been much helped in our work by Belgians. At Amersfoort

we have regular help in our workroom from Belgian ladies resident in the town. At Nunspeet we were only able to start our much-needed open-air gymnasium through the kindness of the Belgian instructors, who volunteered to give instructions; and these are only two instances amongst many.

### WORK FOR WOMEN.

It was to the need of employment that our attention was first drawn in our work in Holland; and our workroom, or Zaal as it is called, has always been first and foremost for the unhappy—and perhaps undesirable—of the camp and for the unskilled worker. The moral improvement wrought by work has often been very marked, and, as sewing is not part of the regular curriculum in the Belgian schools, some of our girls have literally never held a needle in their hands before.

We still find *appliqué* work very helpful in teaching the girls to be neat with their fingers, and how to make pretty and useful things out of odd scraps of materials that otherwise would only be thrown away. In this—as in other embroidery work—the girls are always made to take part in the choosing of the design and colours, and to feel as far as possible that their opinion is of weight. In some there has been a very noticeable improvement in artistic perception.

A useful experience of practical dressmaking is to be gained at our remodelling tables, where old clothes are either renovated or cut up into little suits and coats for children. The women are always glad to make children's clothes. The introduction of smocking to the camps was greeted with great enthusiasm; and our

Nunspeet workers—who are amongst our most unskilled—are now doing really beautiful smocked frocks.

Woollen rugs and raffia work are also done in the Zaals.

For the last few months much of the usual work of the Zaals has been stopped to make clothes for the Belgian children, whom the Germans are allowing to come into Holland at the rate of five hundred a month to be fed and clothed. The women have worked splendidly, coming evening after evening voluntarily so that the clothes might be quickly finished, and they have found great pleasure in sewing on little messages to the children.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to find how much the girls in our workroom regards us as their friends, and how readily they turn to us if in trouble or perplexity.

#### MEN'S WORK.

In our Men's Zaal, also, we welcome especially the rough characters in the camps; and at Nunspeet, where we work in the prison, and always have prisoners amongst our workmen, we have had one or two interesting cases of men who had before been frequently in and out of prison, who have come back to work with us as more or less reformed characters.

Our work has to be chosen with reference to available materials, machinery, and saleability. The brush industry, which has grown very considerably since it was started more than a year ago, has had to be much diminished, as the market was no longer open to the products in England. Its place is being taken by rush



work, baskets, netting, deck chairs, &c. Boot repairing has just been started (the scouts repairing their own shoes with great enjoyment), and the lads are thoroughly grounded in carpentry. Lack of up-to-date machinery makes it impossible to prepare the lads for modern factory life; but it is not, perhaps, a loss for them to be taken away for a time from this atmosphere, as the conditions of our workshop are more favourable to the development of general intelligence and adaptability. All our plant (looms, &c.) have been made in the workshop; their principle is understood by those who work them, and improvements arrived at with experience are appreciated. Further, many different industries are going on in the shop at the same time.

A good deal of woodwork, also, is being done. At Ede the toy industry continues in a most thriving condition, the work being kept alive and fresh by the constant introduction of new designs. At Nunspeet inlaid work is being done—really beautiful manufacture both in execution and design—also chip carving and basket-making.

Experience in mixing dyes has enabled us to make improvements in rope and raffia mats. Experiments in dyeing wicker and rush have been successful. Much interest was awakened by the introduction of vegetable dyes, the materials for which were collected in the country around the camps.

At Uden hammock-making has become a regular industry, a speciality being small hammocks for children to sleep in, with a canvas bottom to carry the mattress and netting over the top to safeguard against a fall. Large numbers of these have been sent to France for use in the Marne district.

## SPORTS AND RECREATION.

Although employment was our first thought in the camps, the question of providing healthy, and also a certain amount of strenuous, recreation for the refugees when not working is one of great importance, in order that there may be some alternative to the lounging and gossip which otherwise occupy the out-of-work hours. Though the Dutch have dealt efficiently with a difficult problem, it must be remembered that camp life cannot be otherwise than dreary; the single room in a long, low barrack, which is the "home" of a whole family, is not a place that can be expected to be attractive for the many hours that remain after the workroom has been left. In winter the need of clubs is especially felt; in the long evenings it is most desirable that there should be some escape from the overcrowded, dimly-lit barrack, and a place where friends can meet over some healthy amusement.

At Ede and Uden a central hall has been provided by the Dutch; but Nunspeet had nothing, and we have therefore started a Recreation Zaal in response to a deeply felt need, the Commandant very kindly giving the premises, lighting, &c. The nightly attendance is now from 450 to 500, which is the utmost we can accommodate, and there are always many more waiting at the door for admission. One end of the room is kept for reading and writing; at the other end is the piano, always a centre of interest. The centre of the room is given up to games of every kind, draughts being especially popular. In one corner are eight small looms where girls are taught to weave; they are making serviceable scarves for soldiers. To encourage anyone

with any artistic gifts, facilities are also provided for modelling in clay or plasticine and for drawing.

Amersfoort workroom is opened each night for the women of the village and their husbands; here also one of our workers is training a choir.

Outdoor games and sports are much appreciated. Football and cricket are played in all camps; at Nunspeet baseball is also played, and the out-of-door gymnasium is very popular.

#### OUTSIDE THE WORKROOM.

Of all the Society's work amongst the Belgians that with the younger people—who will have a hand in the making of the new Belgium—is the one felt to be of the greatest importance.

For the boys the formation of Scout troops has proved of the utmost value, the training developing responsibility and a sense of honour. The uniform is a great feature; the boys feel that it gives them a status in the camp. At Nunspeet, where uniforms could not at first be provided, the boys turned up for drill with the legs of their trousers cut short, and every kind of material tied round their necks in place of handkerchiefs!

The Scouts are expected to be ready to help in any function, entertainment, &c., connected with the life of the camp as a whole, and they respond splendidly to this call. In our big Recreation Zaal at Nunspeet, for instance, they give most valuable help; and at Uden they have made themselves responsible for the cleaning and tidying of the women's workroom on the nights on which the girls' club meets. At Amersfoort, where

the village has grown so quickly that arrangements for policing, &c., are hardly adequate, it is hoped that some order and discipline will be brought into the life of the boys by the development of the Scouts.

Both for boys and girls every effort is made to bring interests other than camp gossip into their lives and to get them right out of the camp. Gardens were started, and in the spring were most popular; but they needed to be carefully supervised to ensure results, as the girls were found planting branches of trees, not realising that plants must have roots! Country walks have opened up quite a new field of interest; and at Uden swimming lessons were given in the lake.

At Uden the girls' club has been preparing in the evening for a Christmas party to give the children and the old people, making presents (the materials for which they paid for themselves), and getting up entertainments. We took the opportunity of teaching the girls new trades (such as raffia to those who did not know it) in the making of the presents.

We feel that it speaks well for the spirit that club and workroom have developed amongst our girls, that at Ede it was possible to put a committee of the girls themselves in charge of the making of clothes for the Belgian children, this committee being responsible for seeing that the clothes were both well and quickly made, and the plan worked admirably. The need, however, for women's work in this camp was found to be met so fully by the Dutch authorities that ours has now been discontinued.

#### THE "HOME BELGE" AT FLUSHING.

The hostel at Flushing was still kept open during

the year, as it seemed essential to have some place to send girls obliged for some reason to remain in the town for a time. It also formed a useful centre for organising the employment of the lace workers who live on their barges near the town. It has since been closed.

#### OUR CRECHE AT AMERSFOORT.

At Amersfoort, unlike the camps, there is no crèche, and we have therefore had to start one for our women; about forty babies are cared for morning and afternoon. Here they are taught simple games, have toys to play with, and there are beds where they can sleep in the afternoon. More important still, they are taught the elements of cleanliness and nice habits, so that a baby is quite ashamed now if he has to be washed on his arrival! Of this training the mothers are showing more and more appreciation.

Out of work hours we also hold a kindergarten class for rather older children.

On one afternoon of every week our workroom is opened for the children to come to play there. Games are organised, and the attendance has reached as many as seventy—the most we can possibly accommodate. On another afternoon also we have a sewing class for children.

#### AT THE HAGUE.

The organisation of the work—sending out of materials, correspondence, &c.—is done from our office in The Hague, and here also we have a permanent exhibition of things made in the camps. Exhibitions of our work have also been held in Flushing, Amsterdam, &c., with considerable success.



## SERBIA.

Our last report, published in the autumn of 1915, alluded to the question of our commencing operations for the assistance of distressed Serbian refugees at the time of the united enemy invasion of Serbia. The possibility of such work was investigated by several representatives of the Committee, who visited Salonica, and such centres as Monastir and Ghevgeli, then threatened by the attacking armies. These inquiries made it clear that we could best work in close co-operation with the influential Serbian Relief Fund, with its headquarters at 5, Cromwell Road, London, S.W., rather than attempting to do so independently; and all that has since been done has followed these lines, with the happiest results. Briefly, it may be said that while the Committee of the S.R.F. has almost entirely provided the funds, we ourselves have contributed many of the workers who have assisted to distribute the relief and to administer the operations of Serbian aid; and the value of this to the larger body has been repeatedly and warmly acknowledged in their publications.

### RELIEF CAMP AT SALONICA.

The stream of refugees from Serbia took two directions, that flowing south being mainly composed of civilians, who escaped the worst horrors of the retreat. Some of our workers thereupon helped to organise the refugee camp already started outside Salonica. This was a notable achievement in improvisation, and, with an average population of seven

hundred, acted for two months as an important stage in the long emigration from Serbia to Corsica, the latter island having been thrown open by the French Government for the reception of the refugees. On each transport that left for Ajaccio two or three relief workers or nurses travelled to accompany the refugees, to give them confidence and to attend to their comfort on the journey. The camp was finally evacuated and all our workers left Salonica, with the exception of one who remained for some months to care for numbers of Greek refugees who had taken refuge in the city.

#### ON THE ADRIATIC COAST.

The other stream of refugees, composed of the remnants of the Serbian armies, and a number of civilians, mostly men and boys, who were anxious to throw themselves upon the goodwill of the Allies, wandered over primitive roads and inaccessible mountain passes to Scutari and the Adriatic coast. Two of our workers spent the months of December and January in this desolate and distracted country, and in spite of the utmost disorganisation, and in face of difficulties second to none that have faced our workers in any of our fields of work, succeeded in finding food and organising relief for some ten thousand civilian refugees. Their perseverance and ingenuity must have saved many hundreds of lives. The story of the conditions they had to face and of the work they performed is as striking as any to be found in the annals of relief work during the progress of the great war.

### EN ROUTE FOR CORSICA.

The refugees who survived the horrors of those black weeks were at length safely transported to Corfu, and subsequently in many cases to Marseilles. *En route* for Corsica refugee camps were organised in Corfu, where employment was provided for the men, and they were reclothed, housed, and fed. One of our workers still continues in the island to care for a few refugees remaining there. From thence a number of the young lads of school age were brought to England to continue their education in this country, where they have received a warm welcome, and adequate provision has been made for them at Oxford, Cambridge, and other centres. Other parties of refugees were taken to Algiers and to Corsica. In the latter case, in several instances, serious hardship from lack of food and adequate arrangements had to be faced by the refugees on shipboard; and had it not been for the presence with them of representatives of our work, intolerable suffering and literal starvation would have been their lot. In the case of other refugees taken to France, our workers were able to do much to relieve the travellers on arrival at Marseilles, and during the period of quarantine on the island of Frioul, off the port.

### CONDITIONS OF EXILE.

Much also was done in Corsica amongst the successive shiploads which reached Ajaccio. The French Government undertook to pay a small quota per head for maintenance, but looked to the Serbian Relief Fund

to distribute clothing, to organise medical assistance, and to suggest means of employment. Our workers gave special attention to those of better standing than the great mass of the refugees, and many of them were comfortably settled out in little colonies at such mountain health resorts as Bocagnano, or in big villas round Ajaccio, where a genial family life is maintained.

No time was lost in starting work to occupy the time of the refugees and to add to their efficiency. A women's workroom was commenced at Ajaccio for the making of clothes for the refugees. A loom also was set up for making Pirot carpets, which are now being regularly exported to England. At Ucciani, another of the settlements, a number of men and boys have been occupied in growing vegetables, which help to supply the needs of the various institutions. In these and other ways we have been able to lessen the hardships and privations of a painful migration, and at the same time to aim to help the refugees to fit themselves for the task of restoring their national life.

## RUSSIA.

It has scarcely been generally realised, perhaps, in England that in addition to Poland so many as eight or nine frontier districts of Russia have been invaded, with the result that some millions of refugees have been driven eastwards from their ruined homes. The terrible tale of their journeyings has been graphically told in "The Way of the Cross" and "The People Who Run." "Uprooted from the soil that bore them, . . . their slowly acquired possessions gone, friends and relatives lost in the flight, or perished from

privation or disease, every inducement to self-restraint gone, every incentive to the effort whereby man lives taken away, all the old landmarks, physical and moral, submerged in one great tide of calamity which has left them helpless.”—(Joseph Burt.)

### THE PIONEER PARTY.

During the early months of 1916 the plight of these poor sufferers was brought home more and more to the Committee, and a pioneer party of four left England in April to investigate and report as to the possibilities of giving help. Nowhere have the authorities extended a readier welcome to our offers of assistance; the Russian Red Cross have given our workers free travelling facilities, and the Zemstvos (local authorities) have placed buildings, &c., at our disposal.

The district of Buzuluk (an area as large as Belgium), in the Province of Samara, situated on the Volga, south-east of Moscow, was found to be as destitute of help and as crowded with refugees as any. Our workers (to the number now of about thirty) have settled there, to find not a doctor in the whole 700 square miles of its area, though thickly peopled with 100,000 souls, of whom one quarter are refugees from the western frontier, 1,400 miles away. It would be hard indeed to find elsewhere such a motley collection of people from every part of the Russian Empire—Little Russians, Poles, Lithuanians, Tartars, Cossacks, and Bashkirs, in addition to Austrian, Turkish, and German prisoners and a few German civilians from East Prussia.



## CHIEF CENTRES OF WORK.

The work so far consists of general and medical relief, and is carried on at the following centres :

**LUBIMOFKA.**—Here there is a well-arranged hospital, including an out-patient department. Here the most severe cases are treated, and a number of serious operations, involving much careful nursing, have been carried out by our doctors. The Dispensary in connection with the hospital is open daily, and is thronged with patients, especially on Sunday, which is market day in the village, and the only time the agriculturalists can attend. From the hospital as centre many cases of illness have been visited at distant points, involving long hours of travel in the roughest country carriages over the steppes and through the pine forests for the doctors in charge.

A workroom has been started in the village and a beginning made with the teaching of industries, including spinning and weaving.

**MOGOTOVO.**—A large country house has been handed over to us for the reception of refugees needing special care; over a hundred women and children are now housed under its roof, sent to us after selection from the different villages under our supervision. The district around is so needy from the medical point of view that an out-patient dispensary has been organised, as part of the equipment at the "Great House"—or "English House," as it is to be called in future as a memory of its present occupation.

**ANDREAFKA.**—A more recently opened centre of district nursing, out-patient and relief work, where in

a small Government hospital now vacant a few light cases of illness can be taken in for treatment. Already 130 women workers are employed in various simple industries, including knitting, embroidery and the making of wadded coats.

BOGDANOFKA.—Here also similar efforts are being undertaken and an encouraging start has been made.

#### THE CONDITION OF THE REFUGEES.

Our relief workers have visited the refugees in these and other centres, where they find a terrible prevalence of overcrowding, great need of boots and clothing of all kinds, much destitution, and a degree of misery in consequence of lack of employment that is keenly felt. Careful inquiries are made, and felt boots distributed to the most destitute. Goods dispatched from England have been long and eagerly awaited, and arrived when most wanted. Personal sympathy in their troubles is welcomed by the refugees, even without the addition of the more material help our workers are so eager to administer.

One of the latter writes :

“ As we go from house to house it is the same story. The long, weary journey from home, first with the horse and cart and some of the household possessions (most of which had to be sold or left behind *en route*); and then day after day in the crowded train in which people were ill or dying; then the miserable winter in Tashkent, where hundreds died; and now the months in this out-of-the-way village, where the inhabitants are kindly but very poor and ignorant, where work is scarce and food is dear, and where

now they do not even receive their scant allowance. As these men and women talk, often so quietly, but often with tears, of all they have gone through and of their anxieties for the future, it becomes very real and almost more than one can bear to listen to. . . .

"The work is most interesting, but the saddest it has ever yet been my lot to do."

#### WINTER AT ITS HEIGHT.

As this report is written winter is at its height, and we cannot but think often of the party in Russia, facing the normal winter conditions of extreme cold and snow, a population tried by a scarcity of food aggravated by drought and some failure of the autumn crops, and a refugee population enduring their second winter in exile, restless and unhappy. In the autumn the expedition was bravely seeking to face the situation, to organise extensive schemes of relief by means of soup kitchens, distribution of clothing and working materials, and the commencement of simple forms of home industry. Since then news has been small and infrequent, and we are only now learning how our workers have been able to put these proposals into practice, as well as to continue the much-needed medical service already alluded to.

#### PROBLEMS OF THE WORK.

Peculiar difficulties have faced us in the development of the work in Russia to which allusion should briefly be made in closing. That of transport has been extreme, and cannot yet be said to have been completely overcome. Workers and goods have to reach the country by a slow and

round-about route, on which at certain points vexatious delays are liable to arise. Our party, in spite of the help of capable interpreters, find their lack of knowledge of the language a serious difficulty to cope with in their efforts to assist the people. The long distances which separate our various centres of work and the bad communications between them are more immediate conditions which have to be faced. The severity of the winter climate and the strangeness and unfamiliarity of the surroundings are yet others which play their part in adding to the reality of the sacrifice made by those who have gone to take part in this adventure.

Face to face with the people, the doctors and nurses must reckon on a fatalism truly Mohammedan and an ignorance of the laws of health as complete as can be found anywhere. But there is present the fascination of endless scope for their efforts amongst these masses of folk, whose welcome is a ready and open and generous one, and who show by many touching if sometimes embarrassing gifts their appreciation of the efforts of those who have come amongst them.

During the autumn two of our workers were stationed in Moscow, engaged in assisting the British Relief Committee in their efforts amongst the refugees in that city. A system of case registration at the various relief and feeding points has been initiated, with good results in the elimination of waste and overlapping.

Our most pressing need in the matter of personnel in Russia is for more nurses, particularly those with experience who would be able to undertake considerable responsibility in district relief and medical work.

Department.	Villages.	Families Helped.	Persons Helped.	Huts Built.	Stables Built.	Packets of Clothes.	Coverlets or Pairs of Sheets.	Bed and Mattress.	Cupboards, Tables, Kitchen Ranges.	Other Gifts.	Hens and Rabbits.	Seeds and Manure.	Agricultural Machines.	Garden Tools.
Aisne & Marne (building)	2	22	68	68 <sup>a</sup>	15 <sup>a</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marne ... ..	19	333	1,171	333	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meuse ... ..	5	86	294	86	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	26	441	1,533	487	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marne (relief) ...	164	4,451	15,232	—	—	5,023	1,187	28	—	462	1,160 <sup>b</sup>	Value Fcs. 30,166	134 Value Fcs. 89,914	Value Fcs. 6,670
Meuse ... ..	74	3,777	10,080	—	—	3,901	3,127	78	—	878		—	—	—
Aube ... ..	2	834	2,680	—	—	800	89	32	—	301		—	—	—
Meurthe et Moselle ...	21	1,129	3,587	—	—	1,129	952	—	—	—		—	—	—
<i>Part Total—</i>														
Gifts by the Expedition	261	10,191	31,579	—	—	10,853	5,355	138	—	1,641	1,160	F30,166	F89,914	F6,670
<i>Marne—</i>														
Gifts given : half by the Prefecture ; half by the Expedition ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,053	403	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Marne &amp; Meuse—</i>														
Gifts of the Prefecture for the Marne ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	801	286	2,332	752	—	—	—	—
Gifts of the Bon Gîte for the Meuse et Marne	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,564	772	1,857	753	—	—	—	—
<i>Total—</i>														
Distributions made by the Expedition ...	261	10,191	31,579	487	27	10,853	8,750	2,249	4,592	3,146	1,160	F30,166	F89,914	F6,670

<sup>a</sup> Houses and Stables repaired. <sup>b</sup> Valuable help has been received from the Agricultural Relief of Allies Committee of the Royal Agricultural Society, and from the American Relief Clearing House.



# FRIENDS' WAR VICTIMS' RELIEF COMMITTEE.

## CASH STATEMENT FROM 1ST OCTOBER, 1915, TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1916.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
Oct. 1, 1915.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£ s. d.
To Balance Abroad, at Various Centres ... ..	4,651	0	11	By WORK IN FRANCE—			
" Balance, London ... ..	18,960	16	10	General Relief ... ..	9,089	0	0
Sept. 30, 1916.				Building Construction ... ..	2,719	8	10
To Contributions ... ..	34,489	16	5	Medical and Hospital Work... ..	1,529	10	4
" Contributions received				Agricultural Operations ... ..	1,763	2	8
Abroad ... ..	2,996	19	4	Purchase of Motor Cars and			
Interest on Deposits at Banks	583	7	2	Lorries and Running Ex-			
" Refugee Workrooms in Hol-				penses ... ..	1,468	15	0
land—				*Personal and Household			
Sale of Articles made, etc.	1,874	17	1	Equipment ... ..	1,315	7	4
" Sundry other Receipts abroad—				*Maintenance of Workers ... ..	4,043	13	5
Cash Repayments by				*Travelling Expenses... ..	796	13	2
French Authorities ... ..	1,150	0	4	Miscellaneous Expenses ... ..	295	4	6
Patients' Payments at							23,020 15 3
Samoëns ... ..	114	5	4	By WORK IN HOLLAND—			
Sundry Receipts in Hol-				General Relief ... ..	1,469	11	4
land ... ..	59	9	7	Building Construction ... ..	4,788	7	8
				Refugee Workrooms: Wages			
				and Materials ... ..	4,433	9	8
				Warehouse Expenses ... ..	115	10	4
				Office Expenses ... ..	384	8	6
				*Personal and Household			
				Equipment ... ..	268	9	8
				*Maintenance of Workers ... ..	1,907	8	7
				*Travelling Expenses ... ..	1,144	5	10
							14,511 11 7
				By SERBIAN Relief Work—			
				General Relief ... ..	442	9	11
				Medical Work... ..	35	7	1
				*Personal and General Equip-			
				ment ... ..	198	7	7

By WORK IN RUSSIA—

(Details not yet available—  
work started in Aug., 1916)

Purchase of Clothing for Re-  
lief Abroad ... ..

Grants to Aide Civile Belge...

SPECIAL GRANTS—

Assistance to Armenian

Refugees in Port Said ...

General Relief in Italy ...

Deputation Expenses in

United States ... ..

LONDON EXPENSES—

Printing, Stationery, Adver-

tising, Postage, Rent,

Salaries, and Office Ex-

penses ... ..

Packing and Warehouse

Expenses ... ..

Balances Abroad, at Various

Centres ... ..

Balance, London ... ..

£64,880 13 0

3,802 9 11

437 16 2

1,000 0 0

50 0 0

50 0 0

100 0 0

152 10 0

51

1,220 2 2

444 14 2

1,664 16 4

4,688 9 4

14,343 4 2

£64,880 13 0

\* About one-sixth of these payments have been contributed by workers and friends, and are included under "Contributions." Attention is called to the fact that under the heading "Maintenance of Workers," considerable sums are included in respect of hut-builders and agricultural workers, which might rightly be charged to those headings.

We have examined the above Cash Statement with the books and vouchers relating thereto, and certify the same to be correct. The Receipts and Expenditure in France and Holland are taken from the Monthly Cash Statements from those countries.

LONDON, 5th March, 1917.

(Signed) ROBERT H. MARSH & CO.,  
Chartered Accountants.

